

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 IO-14 OMB-01
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PM:PPERENYI

-----073775 262049Z /45

O R 262034Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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HELSINKI FOR CAT DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PCAT, PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: TASS ON TURKISH EMBARGO LIFTING

FYI. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TASS REPORT ENTITLED
"EXPANDING THE EXPORT OF ARMS" DATELINED WASHINGTON,
JULY 26:
CONTRARY TO THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS BY THE WHITE HOUSE
ABOUT THE INTENTION TO REDUCE THE SALES OF AMERICAN
WEAPONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES IS
ACTUALLY EXPANDING ITS MILITARY SUPPLIES TO OTHER
COUNTRIES.
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THE USA IS STILL THE GREATEST ARMS SELLER IN THE WORLD.
IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, IT WILL DELIVER TO OTHER
COUNTRIES VARIOUS WEAPONS COSTING A RECORD SUM OF 13.2
THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH IS ALMOST TWO THOUSAND
MILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN LAST YEAR.

IN PURSUING THIS POLICY, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION
EXERTED HEAVY PRESSURE ON U.S. CONGRESS TO MAKE IT LIFT
THE EMBARGO ON ARMS SALES TO TURKEY, INTRODUCED IN 1975
AFTER THE TURKISH TROOPS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE
TERRITORY OF CYPRUS.

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS
ADMINISTRATION HAVE SUBJECTED SENATE MEMBERS TO HEAVY
PRESSURE, SAYING THAT THE EMBARGO ON THE SUPPLY OF ARMS
TO TURKEY WEAKENS THE SOUTH-EASTERN FLANK OF THE
NATO MILITARY BLOC.

YESTERDAY, SENATE, BY 57 VOTES AGAINST 42 LIFTED THE
EMBARGO ON THE ARMS SALES TO TURKEY.

THE DECISION TO LIFT THE EMBARGO WAS ADOPTED IN THE
FORM OF A RESOLUTION ON THE DRAFT LAW ON MILITARY AID
TO FOREIGN STATES. THIS COMPROMISE RESOLUTION SPONSORED
BY ROBERT BYRD, SENATE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY LEADER, WITH
THE CONSENT OF THE WHITE HOUSE, ENVISAGES APPROPRIATING
175 MILLION DOLLARS IN MILITARY "AID" FOR TURKEY IN
1979 FISCAL YEAR.

THE U.S. SENATE DECISION ADDS A NEW DIMENSION TO THE
ARMS RACE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AND WILL FURTHER
EXACERBATE TENSIONS IN THIS STRATEGICALLY SENSITIVE AREA
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OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

JODY POWELL, THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY, SAID
PRESIDENT CARTER WAS "SATISFIED" WITH SENATE DECISION.
THE STATE DEPARTMENT, FOR ITS PART, ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT
WELCOMING THE SENATE DECISION.

THE DECISION TO CANCEL THE EMBARGO MUST ALSO BE TAKEN
BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. CONGRESS.
END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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Subject: TASS ON TURKISH EMBARGO LIFTING FYI. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TASS REPORT ENTITLED "EXPANDING THE EXPORT OF ARMS" DATED WASHINGTON
TAGS: PCAT, PARM, SOPN
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